those aspects of the subject which are of most importance to nurses is, in the main, satisfactorily fulfilled. Chapters which may be mentioned are: Development of Child Welfare Work; Care of the New-Born Infant; The Nursery and Its Equipment; Time to be Spent Out of Doors; Clothing for Infants and Children; Breast Feeding, and Artificial Feeding. Brief descriptions are given of the commoner diseases of childhood, and there is an index. Particularly noteworthy is the abundance of excellent and pertinent illustrations.

A few minor features are open to criticism. The illustration of the teterelle breast-pump (p. 98), an unsanitary piece of apparatus, might profitably be omitted, though it is only fair to say that the author himself condemns it. The table of artificial feeding (p. 118) allows only 13-29 calories per pound body-weight during the first month of life, an amount which would certainly cause serious undernutrition. In spite of the modern tendency to give fewer feedings at longer intervals, six feedings a day will satisfy few infants in the first month. The directions for the preparation of casein milk (wrongly called "albumin" milk) are not the best. The curd should be rubbed through the sieve with the buttermilk and water afterwards added, and many pediatricians have found that a more suitable curd is obtained by allowing coagulation to take place at room temperature. The use of gelatin in melaena neonatorum, which is recommended on page 156, has been generally abandoned, as it deserves to be both because of its dangers and its inefficiency, in favor of substances containing thrombin or prothrombin, such as defibrinated or whole blood, or serum.

With these few exceptions, the book may be safely recommended for use as a text-book in training schools for nurses. H. K. F.

DEPARTMENT OF BACTERIOLOGY AND PATHOLOGY.

(Edited by Benjamin Jablons, M. D., San Francisco.)

[This department has as its chief obiect the dissemination of the special knowledge that is being developed in the scientific laboratories of the world, and which are of practical interest to the medical practitioner. Abstracts of general articles will be published from time to time as well as preliminary reports of subjects that are of universal interest.]

Journal of Laboratory and Clinical Medicine, December, 1916. Vol. II, No. 3.

Tonsillectomy During the Course of Acute Rheumatic Fever.

Roger S. Morris sums up the literature on the subject and finds that there is a diversity of opinion as to the frequency with which acute rheumatic fever is preceded by sore throat. As a result of more recent methods of examination of the tonsils many writers find these organs diseased in a much higher percentage of cases of acute rheumatic fever than was formerly supposed. The tonsils are not the only foci or depot of infection in this disease, acute polyarthritis arising following abrasions of the nose, pus pockets about the teeth or through the bronchial or intestinal mucosa. Since the conception of the disease as a metastatic infection from a local focus, the therapy has similarly changed and it is not considered sufficient to give salicylates with local treatment to the affected joints.

Since the tonsils are more frequently the primary focus of infection Morris concludes that in cases of rheumatic fever the tonsils when diseased should be removed as soon as the operation can safely be carried out.

Gerhardt's Test for Diacetic Acid in the Urine.

H. P. Barret suggests the following modification to avoid the delay incident to filtering off the phosphate precipitates produced by the addition 10% ferric chloride solution. About two c.c. of urine is placed in a test tube and an equal quantity of ferric chloride solution is allowed to run slowly down the tube. A layer is formed at the point of contact of both tubes. The tube is held at an angle of forty-five degrees and at the point of contact a ring of phosphate precipitate is formed. Directly below this ring a bordeaux red color appears if diacetic acid is present and tends to diffuse downwards on standing. The tube may be heated for differentiating other substances if necessary as in original test.

Comptes Rendus de la Societe de Biologie, Tome lxxix—1916, No. 8.

Bacillus Fecalis Alkaligenes as a Pathogenic Agent.

A. Rochaix and H. Marotte report two cases suffering from a typhoid-like condition in whom hemoculture showed the presence of the bacillus fecalis alkaligenes. Despite the comparative rarity of infections due to this agent they point out that this was evidently the organism responsible for the disease, inasmuch as their serum agglutinated the organism in a high titre. This organism has previously been considered a saprophyte and very little attention has been given it as a possible pathogenic organism.

Sterilization of Potable Water.

E. Doyen and Toda have found that it is possible to disinfect water which contains no spores but which has been infected with typhoid and paratyphoid by the addition of sodium hypochlorite in quantity sufficient to represent 3 milligrams of chlorine to the litre. The official solutions of hypochlorite are very alkaline and require neutralization with hydrochloric acid. The amount of acid used depends naturally on the alkalinity of the water to be sterilized as well as the solution of hypochlorite employed.

They conclude that the best method for the sterilization of potable water which will destroy non-spore-bearing bacilli as well as spore-bearers is the following:

Add 40 milligrams of hydrochloric acid to the litre of water and then add chloride of lime representing 2 centigrams of chlorine to the litre of water. The disagreeable taste that this gives to the water can be obviated by the addition of hydrogen peroxide or hyposulfite of soda.

Journal of Experimental Medicine, January 1, 1917.

Digitalis in Pneumonia.

A. E. Cohn and R. A. Jamieson summarize a series of 105 cases of pneumonia in whom the action of digitalis was studied. They found that digitalis reduced the pulse rate in fluttering and fibrillating hearts, and was not affected by high fever. In non-febrile hearts as well as febrile hearts, the same dose produces the same effects. The change observed in the conduction rate of the heart in pneumonia patients is not due to the intoxication of the disease, but is always found associated with the giving of digitalis. They conclude that digitalis exercises a life-saving effect in cases of auricular irregularity (fibrillation and flutter).

Journal of American Medical Association, December 2, 1916.

Experimental Endocarditis.

H. K. Detweiler and W. L. Robinson conclude as a result of an extensive study of chronic endocarditis, as well as a study of the pathogenicity of streptococci isolated from the saliva of normal individuals, that, 1, the streptococci isolated from cases of chronic endocarditis are of low virulence, probably lower than any hitherto reported as being recovered from a similar source.

2. These streptococci are capable of producing lesions in animals identical to those found in pa-

tients from whose blood these organisms were obtained.

3. The strain of streptococcus viridans isolated from the mouth of normal individuals are similar to those isolated from the blood of patients suffering from chronic endocarditis and are equally capable of producing heart lesions in the rabbit. In addition they found that the streptococci isolated from the blood gave no joint lesions, whereas those isolated from the mouth did give these lesions, and they consider this fact very significant.

Vol. LXVII, No. 24. December 9, 1916.

Spinal Fluid in Cases of Compression.

James B. Ayer and H. A. Viets review the literature and subdivide these cases into three types, each of which gives special fluid findings. They conclude that abnormal findings occur in the fluid distal to the point of compression and that these are chiefly marked increase in the protein content with or without yellow coloration of the fluid. Cell count is low and pressure of the fluid is always normal. The protein increase is above that met with in cases of tabes or paresis, the cells very few and chiefly endothelial in origin. There is a tendency in many of the cases to spontaneous coagulation. The Wassermann test was negative except where syphilis was present. Lange's colloidal gold test was positive in the maximum dilutions, i. e., the so-called "tumor zone." The culture was negative, although the syndrome was present in one case of epidural abscess. When the compression is at a low point in the spinal cord, the syndrome is more likely to be present and also accompanies acute processes more readily than chronic ones. It is also found more often in cases of intramedullary and meningitic lesions than in extradural processes.

HYGIENE AND SANITATION ON OCEAN VESSELS.

An article on "Hygiene and Sanitation on Ocean Vessels," by Surgeon Victor G. Heiser of the United States Public Health Service, which appeared in the "Military Surgeon" for November, 1916, is worthy of the attention of all physicians in sea-coast cities, as it discloses a state of affairs that may throw light on many cases of illness among passengers and crew where the diagnosis might otherwise be difficult to explain.

To quote briefly, the following unhygienic and unsanitary conditions are the rule on ocean vessels: "Water tanks on board are seldom sterilized, and if at any time during a vessel's history it has taken unsafe water into its tanks, it is more than likely that the supply will be infected for years afterward. Again, it often happens, when the drinking water tanks become exhausted during the voyage, that water from the boiler supply is pumped into the drinking tanks without reference as to whether the water is safe or not. . . .

"Experience further shows that outbreaks of diarrhea among the passengers occur on almost all vessels."

"Scarcely any cabins have thorough ventilation . . . so change of air does not take place." (The danger from tuberculosis is apparent.) "The crews' quarters are unusually dark and ill ventilated."

"Rats on ocean liners are frequently encountered in the cabins—the cabins usually have double walls and other places which afford convenient harboring for rats. Bed bugs are often present. Mattresses and bedding are seldom disinfected with steam or other means to rid them of vermin. Cockroaches are almost universal. Small red ants are even a greater nuisance."

"It is perhaps well for the comfort of the average passenger that he does not see the food either in the stores or during its preparation. Storerooms are nearly always infested with rats, cockroaches and ants. The refrigerators are generally in a filthy condition. The cleansing of the ice-box is practically never carried out. Dish rags are generally in a filthy condition and dishes are usually washed in cold water only (and)—are nearly always greasy. . . . pineapples, after the dishes are washed, are placed in the dirty water and then cut in the fancy design."

"Bath tubs are reasonably clean, but no ventilation provided for bath rooms. The towels frequently emit a foul odor, due to having been kept for many days in a moist, unventilated state before they are sent to the laundry. Water closets are fair, but arrangements for ventilation are lacking."

"(Only) on ships which are required to comply with American laws is there a fair amount of space set aside for hospital use. The surgical instruments are seldom adequate in variety or in good condition. Antitoxins, vaccines, and other life-saving armamentaria are seldom carried."

"It is difficult to understand why an intelligent public will permit itself to be placed in an environment aboard ship which is not only unpleasant but frequently dangerous. The manner of preparing the food, the quality of the water which is served, the ventilation of the cabins, the meager medical facilities, and the vermin, are conditions which are frequently detrimental to health and could not be believed to exist if they were not constantly found by actual experience."

"It is practically impossible to obtain distilled or other safe drinking water on any of the ships which cross the Atlantic, Pacific or the Indian Oceans. A properly ventilated cabin is a rare exception."

In the light of the above observations, and the standing of the writer is a guarantee of their accuracy, it seems only proper that local health boards and officers should be granted authority to correct such glaring disregard of the rules for hygiene and sanitation of the habitations of "perhaps twenty million people (who) travel during the year and over a million persons constantly at sea."

G. H. T.

NOTICE.

An Army Medical Reserve Corps Officer is desired, for duty in San Francisco. Must pass the required army examination or already hold a commission. Salary, $2,000.00 a year, with quarters, fuel and lights. Must devote whole time to duties. Preferably unmarried. Apply California State Journal of Medicine for particulars.

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